

The Next Legislature.

On Monday next, the Legislature of North Carolina will meet in the City of Raleigh. We now propose to take a glance at the questions which will most probably come before it, and the course which it is likely to pursue. A free expression of opinion by the press is always desirable, and in this case we shall endeavor to state our own views as concisely and as explicitly as possible.

Among the measures of State policy which will not doubt be brought forward or occupy the attention of the Legislature, will be the repeal of the Gerrymander law of 1846; the distribution of the official patronage of the State; Equal Suffrage; Internal Improvements by the State; the election of Judges by the people; together with other matters of less general importance. State Legislatures have, strictly speaking, very little to do with national politics, except in cases where the rights or interests of the States are directly called in question; of this character is the slavery agitation which now disturbs, and for years has disturbed, the peace and harmony of the country, and bids fair to dissolve the Union itself. Doubtless this question will occupy no small amount of the attention of the Legislature, and its action will be looked to not only in this State, but in the other States, both North and South.

In regard to the first of these questions, i. e. the repeal of the Gerrymander law of 1846, we must avow ourselves most plainly and unequivocally in favor of it. We think that the Democratic party, which will have a majority in both branches, owes this to justice, to itself, to consistency, and to the country. The enactment of the law was a manifest deviation from established usage, without precedent or justification, done for political purposes and to serve party ends. It was unequalled for by the people, and an outrage upon propriety, and as such has ever since been denounced by the Democratic party, and now that that party is in the ascendancy, and has the power of repealing this obnoxious law, it is bound to repeal it, for a neglect to do so would, under the circumstances, amount to an approval and endorsement of it, and an acknowledgment that we of the Democratic party have been denouncing a law which we dare not repeal. Besides, even upon the grounds upon which the Feds. attempted to justify themselves in '46-7, it is our duty to repeal this law; for if, as was then argued, that party which had the ascendancy in the popular vote was entitled to a majority of the members of Congress, that majority now pertains of right to the Democratic party, who swept the State at the election in August last. But more than all this; the repeal of the Gerrymander law will be introducing nothing new into the statute book; it will only be placing matters as they were in the regular course of things, which ought not to have been deviated from, as was done four years since. Decidedly, we think that the Gerrymander must be repealed.

As regards the official patronage of the State, we have no hesitancy in saying that we go for a clean sweep. So far as we are concerned, our motto is to "cry aloud and spare not," and this not from any desire for office for ourselves or any of our friends, nor from any feeling of bigotry or ill-will towards our fellow-citizens of opposite political opinions, but simply from a desire for justice and fair play. No man of common sense can go about with his eyes open and not be conscious of the galling proscription which follows a Democrat in every step he takes, and so far as the influence of office, the control of money and other corporations is concerned, renders him a member of a Pariah caste, debarred from all participation in the advantages enjoyed by his Whig fellow-citizens. So general a thing is this that we might almost regard it as universal, and the accidental presence of a Democrat in the employment of the State, or in the direction or management of any corporation, is so rare as to be remarkable, and the exception only adds stronger confirmation to the rule. We do not wish to be invidious, else we might particularize the moneyed and other corporations in Wilmington, and give a list of the directors and officers in all of them, with their politics, which would, perhaps, surprise some of our country readers. It is enough to say that, with two or three exceptions, receiving not one-sixth of the total amount of salaries paid, there is no Democrat to be found in them. In some corporations, there is one or two Democratic directors, in others none at all. And be it remembered that in all these corporations, with the exception of the Commercial Bank, the State is a considerable stockholder. We do not state this from any feeling or desire to cast reproach upon any of our institutions or the gentlemen connected with them, but we attack a system which is a virtual insult to every man belonging to the now dominant party in the State. We intend shortly to obtain a list of the names, politics, and, if possible, the family connection subsisting between the officers of the different Banking and other corporations of the State, in nearly all of which the State is more or less interested. It will be a startling document. It is, in some measure, to equalize things, to do away, if only partially, with this inequality, and to teach both Whigs and Democrats that the Democratic people, aye, and the Whig people, too, form some element, and carry some influence, in the direction of affairs, that we recommend to and urge upon the Governor and Legislature the exercise of all the powers conferred upon them, without fear, favor, or affection, in any case. It is no use to preach non-partisanship in this matter. It is not three weeks since a Southern Rights meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, at which Whigs did speak very patriotically upon this subject, and yet the next announcement was that Mr. LYNCH had been hunted out from the petty office of Travelling Postmaster, and this simply upon account of his political opinions, and at the dictation of certain political cliques in and about Wilmington. A pretty commentary, forsooth! The contest between the North and the South has nothing to do with this. All our remarks would be equally applicable if the Union were to be dissolved to-morrow. The same cliques would monopolize, or try to monopolize, everything, and it is the bounden duty of the Legislature, in the exercise of its authority, to do nothing to perpetuate or strengthen this insolent domination. It is equally the duty of the Governor, and we feel satisfied that he will not be found wanting.

There is little doubt that the question of the abolition of the landed qualification for electors of State Senators, will also be brought up and urged, and we hope, carried into effect; but this we consider as far from being certain. Although there is a decided Democratic majority in both branches, still it is by no means certain that this measure can be carried through during the approaching session, and this for several reasons—the first of which is that it will require three-fifths of all the members of both branches to pass such an amendment, and the Democratic majority does not amount to this; and the second reason is, that although the Democrats as a party, and a very great majority of its individual members, go in for this change, there are, nevertheless, some Democrats who are still opposed to it, although their number is growing less every day. It is quite probable, however, that a sufficient accession of strength may be received from the Whigs to over-

come this, and to give the constitutional majority.—There is one thing in connection with this which may be looked upon as a fixed fact. This change is bound to be made, and cannot be deferred beyond 1852, no matter which party may be in the ascendancy in the Legislature of that year.

As for Internal Improvements by the State, it is a topic that, if possible, we would willingly avoid. It is a vexed question; one which has divided and distracted both parties, and in regard to which it would be folly to attempt the erection of a standard of orthodoxy, founded upon party grounds. We have, at different times, taken occasion to give expression to our opinions upon this subject in a general way, and also with especial reference to the different projects which have been acted upon or been brought before the Legislature and the public. It is not at all likely that any considerable appropriation of money will be made by this Legislature. Indeed, it is more probable that not one cent will be voted for anything; certainly no new projects will be entered into, nor will any further privileges be granted to the Central Road, which, in the opinion of many, has already received far too much. If we were to recommend the extension of assistance to any Road, it would be to the Manchester Road—a work, the success of which is of the most vital importance to the interests of the State already embarked in the Wilmington and Raleigh Road. It is a matter capable of demonstration, that while the State has much to gain by a subscription to the stock of this company, or an endorsement of its bonds, it is next to impossible that it could lose anything. We feel perfectly certain that the enhanced value which it would confer upon the State Stock in the old Road, would, of itself, justify a liberal subscription to the Manchester Road, to say nothing of the fact that the Road, if properly constructed and managed, cannot fail to pay. It might, perhaps, be considered selfish to urge the advantages which it would confer upon the town of Wilmington, which are neither few nor insignificant.

But perhaps the most important discussion of all will be that arising out of the present position of our relations to the North, in connection with the slavery question. It is impossible to foreshadow the action of the Legislature in this matter. We have no doubt that it will be such as the occasion calls for, and is due to the character of North Carolina as a Southern State, jealous of her honor, and determined to assert and defend her rights to an equal participation in all the benefits guaranteed by the constitution.—Towards our Senators in Congress, the Legislature occupies the position of their immediate constituency, and possesses, and should exert, the right of approving or disapproving of the manner in which they have discharged the duties incumbent upon them in their high position. Unfortunately, there are many things in the course of both our Senators which no party can endorse and stand up in the face of the people of North Carolina. The course of Senator BADGER has been peculiarly objectionable, and should be, and we hope, will be, visited with the most unqualified censure. We consider ourselves among the most moderate men at the South. We could wish to leave no effort untried—no stone unturned—calculated to prevent disunion and its attendant horrors; or, if disunion must come, to throw the burden and the responsibility of secession upon the North. But we are still State's Rights Democrats. There is a point beyond which we cannot go, and that point has been reached. The burden is now upon the North. Practical nullification and disunion have already been commenced there. A plain law of Congress, founded upon a still plainer and more imperative provision of the constitution, is openly set at defiance, and, unless this resistance to the law and the constitution be speedily put down, there is an end of it, and the Union is, to all intents and purposes, dissolved; and in all this the people of the South stand exonerated to their own consciences and before the rest of the world. But Mr. BADGER knows no stopping place—considers the "Wilnot" not unconstitutional, but only wrong and improper—and believes that North Carolina stands in the same position to the General Government that New Hanover or any other County does to the State of North Carolina. A man with such ideas cannot be trusted at such a crisis as this, and since he will not obey instructions or resign, it is at least right that he should know, and that the world should know, that he does not speak the sentiments of North Carolina, and that the State which he misrepresents deems him unworthy of confidence, and a man not to be trusted.

The question of the election of Judges by the people is in nearly the same position as that of Equal Suffrage. It is comparatively a new question in North Carolina, and although adopted by the dominant party, we are not certain that it can command the undivided support of that party. Many Democrats have not yet made up their minds in regard to it, and for our part such is our dislike to hasty changes of the organic law, before the reasons for such changes are fully understood and reflected upon by the people, that we hope that no action will be taken upon this question during the approaching session. The reform is bound to be effected, and can, therefore, the better afford to bide its time. In every State in which the question has been submitted to the people, the vote in its favor has been overwhelming, and in due season North Carolina will be found no exception to the rule.

STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING.—The annual meeting of the Stockholders of the Wilmington and Raleigh Railroad, took place yesterday in the Masonic Hall, in this town. A very large number of Stockholders were present; in fact, we believe that the meeting was the fullest which has been held for many years, and a better spirit seemed to prevail. The meeting was organized by calling H. B. WHITAKER, Esq., to the Chair, and appointing Messrs. GARDNER and FLEMING, Secretaries. The annual report was submitted, and ordered to be printed. A report was also presented by the Examining Committee, and made the order of the day for to-day at 10 A. M.

FIRE.—On Saturday evening last, between 6 and 7 o'clock, the dwelling house of HENRY NUTT, Esq., accidentally took fire, and was entirely consumed.—We believe he was insured. No material damage was done to any other building. The furniture was considerably damaged, as were the beautiful shrubbery and flower garden contiguous to the house. Mr. NUTT was absent at the time.

Commercial, Tuesday last.

GODFREY, for December, is on hand, beautifully illustrated. We can say nothing in regard to the letter press, which, indeed, we have not had time to read.

GOLDSBORO' TELEGRAPH.—On Thursday last, we received the first number of the "Telegraph," published under the auspices of its new Editor, GEORGE V. STROCK, Esq. It exhibits a considerable improvement in typographical execution; and its introductory address is well written, and in good taste. We are happy to welcome Mr. STROCK to the ranks, and to wish him all pecuniary prosperity in his undertaking.

NOT SO.—The report that HUGH WADDELL, Esq., of Hillsboro', had been appointed Consul to Havana, is contradicted by the Hillsboro' Recorder, in which paper it first appeared. Why was this report started at Mr. WADDELL'S own door? Certainly not as a feeler.

The Right Spirit.—We have been permitted to copy the annexed letter to Mr. LYNCH, the lately removed Mail Agent, to Mr. COLLAMER, formerly Postmaster General. It is open, manly, and above-board, and breathes the proper spirit throughout. It is due to Mr. COLLAMER to state that Mr. LYNCH received a verbal assurance, which was rigidly observed during the time Mr. C. remained at the head of the Department.—The letter speaks for itself, and is, indeed, a model of its kind:

WELDON, N. C., March 10th, 1849.

SIR—You will please excuse me for the frank manner in which I shall address you in the following lines. I hold the office of Mail Agent, under the Wilmington and Raleigh Railroad, in the State of North Carolina, and being a man with a family who are dependent upon my exertions for a support, I am very anxious to know whether I am to be retained or not; and I shall take it as a great favor if you will inform me, or cause me to be informed, what I am to depend upon, so that I may make my calculations for the present year.

If the necessary qualifications—strict attention to business, temperate habits, good moral character, &c.—are deemed by you all that is necessary to hold office under the present administration, I will refer you to every person, Whig or Democrat, between Weldon and Wilmington—who, to every person in Wilmington and Weldon—to say whether I possess these qualities or not. I will also refer you to Major S. R. HONNIE, and Mr. W. H. DUNDAS, in the Post Office Department, to say how I have discharged my duties during the time I have been holding the office of Mail Agent.

But if being a Democrat is looked upon by you as a disqualification, then I am disqualified, for I am a Democrat. I was honestly opposed to the election of Gen. ZACHARY TAYLOR for President, and in all of my conversations and politics during the electioneering campaign, I took a bold and decided stand against his election. If I am retained in office, I must be allowed the privilege of exercising my rights as an American citizen; the right to vote and express my views about public men and measures; and I cannot consent to receive or hold office under a Whig administration without their knowing my political opinions. Should you think proper to retain me after knowing them, I shall always look upon it as a great favor; but should you conclude otherwise, "I shall be content," and always feel grateful for the favors I have received at the hands of the Post Office Department.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. G. LYNCH.

HON. JACOB COLLAMER, P. M. General, Washington, D. C.

On Monday last, HERR RYNNER gave notice that he would walk on a wire from the roof of the Washington and Lafayette Hotel to Mr. LAWTON'S cabinet-making establishment, where a coffin was in readiness in case of accident. The performance was fixed for 4 P. M., wind and weather permitting, and for two hours before that time, the usually quiet neighborhood of the Journal office looked quite animated, although it rained the greater part of the time. We don't know when we have seen as many "colored pussions," with open countenances, looking literally with mouth and eyes. About fifteen minutes before four, it rained pretty heavily, throwing a considerable amount of cold water upon the undertaking. However, the "fusic" kept it up, and about the appointed time a man, in black, appeared on the balcony of the Hotel and made a short speech, to the effect that, on account of the weather, he had not intended to walk the wire that day, but seeing so many people, he would "go it." In a few minutes after, the same man made his appearance in flaming red, with white "continuations," and made an oration, setting forth the fact that he was the man, and the only man, "what did" or could cross rivers and so forth in this peculiar way. He said he had crossed the Delaware at the point where WASHINGTON crossed it, and he thought WASHINGTON'S crossing was about the greatest crossing recorded in history, not excepting Pharaoh and his host at the Red Sea. He could not pretend to compare with WASHINGTON, but as for Pharaoh and his host, he was far ahead of them, for he got over and they didn't. After some other eloquent remarks, the "red man" vanished, and shortly made his appearance at a dromedary window, and from thence on the roof, where, after trying the wire, and making sure of its proper adjustment, he retreated to the window, into which he stuck his feet, for the purpose of having them rubbed with chalk or rosin, or something else, and shortly after set out on his perilous journey, which he accomplished with seeming ease, going at a sort of trot, stopping two or three times in his career, and standing the "observed of all observers." The distance was about four hundred feet, and the highest point of the wire about forty feet; it being supported at different points by posts. Mr. RYNNER took the precaution to take up a collection beforehand, which was well thought of, for it was not five minutes after the "show" when the street was as deserted as ever, and nothing remained to tell the tale except the wire, suggestive of a magnetic telegraph.

Our modesty forbids us retaining unmerited honors, and we must, therefore, respectfully decline the credit of making the remarkable discovery in regard to HORACE MANN and his constituents, which our friends of the Observer have been so kind as to attribute to us. We claim no property in it whatsoever, for we found it, in a measure, running at large, and our paragraph is the same or nearly the same in substance with one which we found in several of our Northern exchanges, and totally uncontradicted. We have no doubt of its accuracy—none in the world. But that is neither here nor there; whatever were the motives of the Convention, the result of the election in the Eighth District of Massachusetts shows that the said HORACE MANN, Federalist and Free Soiler, is elected by a majority of five hundred over the candidate of the Federalist Convention and all other candidates, proving conclusively that the Convention was not quite up to the mark of the party which it represented, and that the masses of that party go for HORACE MANN, through and through, unrestrained even by prudential considerations.

The nullification movement at the North progresses and gathers force day by day. The idea of enforcing the Fugitive Slave Law is laughed at in the New England States, and in some of the States of the Northwest. The city of Boston is the very heart and soul of this lawlessness, which displays itself throughout the whole State of Massachusetts.—The Fayetteville Carolinian, of the 9th inst., in an article upon this subject, says:

On Thursday last, we saw a citizen of Fayetteville, just returned from Boston, after an unsuccessful demand for his slaves. He found that it was useless to attempt to execute the law. That part of the population not active in resisting the law, were perfectly passive; and although he thinks that a large majority of the people were in favor of executing the law, they yet take no steps to accomplish it. We think, however, he is mistaken. If a majority were willing to execute it, there would soon be found a way to do it. He was very politely told that he was not safe in the city, and that he had better not stay. They were very anxious about his safety. The officers of the law all declared, without trying, however, that they could not execute the law.

The gentleman states that he believes that even if the people of Massachusetts should not resist the troops, they will take an indirect way of refusing to execute it by running the fugitives off to Canada.—He has no doubt that they are determined to prevent the slaves from being returned, in any event.

All this is, no doubt, literally true. There is no use in mincing the matter. Such conduct can only be characterized as seceding, and, if persevered in, must result, and should result, in disunion, and Massachusetts would be the greatest loser thereby.

The London Quarterly, for the quarter ending October last, is on our table, and contains a large number of readable articles. LEONARD SCOTT & Co., New York.

The Elections.

The result of the election in New York seems to be as follows: Washington Hunt, Fed., is elected Governor by about one thousand majority. Some papers seem still to dispute his election, but it appears to be pretty generally looked upon as a "fixed fact." The other State Officers chosen, are Sanford E. Church, democrat, Lieut. Governor; Ebenezer BAKER, fed., Canal Commissioner; Wm. P. Angel, democrat, State Prison Inspector; Charles S. Benton, democrat, Clerk of Appeals.

The Congressional delegation stands 17 feds, 14 democrats, 1 free-soiler, and two districts still in doubt. The N. Y. Herald classes the members chosen as follows: Of those put down as feds, 5 are classed as "Silver Grays," or National Whigs, and 12 as Sewardites, or Northern Nullifiers. Of the Democrats, 7 are old line Cass Democrats, and 7 Barnburners, or Free Soilers. Of the avowed Free-Soiler, it is unnecessary to speak. The feds have a very decided predominance in both branches of the State Legislature, which will enable them to elect a fed. in place of the noble and talented Dickinson. It is more than probable that Hamilton Fish, the present Governor, will be the successor of Mr. Dickinson. It would seem that in this election, the anti-Republicans have held the balance of power, for every name upon their State ticket was elected, and none were elected who were not upon that ticket.

In Massachusetts, where the election came off on Monday last, there is no election for Governor by the people. Briggs, fed, so far as heard from, lost 4,000 votes. There is apparently no change in the representation to Congress, although there is no choice in three of the districts. In the eighth district, Horace Mann, Free Soil Fed, is elected by a majority of 500 over all others. It will be remembered that the Federal Convention in this district nominated a man named Walley, in place of Horace Mann, but the feelings of the masses of the party were with the redoubled Horace, and the result is before us.

In New Jersey, the Democrats have carried almost everything, electing their Governor by a majority of between four and five thousand, and also four out of the five members of Congress from that State. The delegation in the present Congress stands, one democrat to four feds, so that, in fact, the tables are completely turned. The democrats will also have a considerable majority in the State Legislature, which will enable them to elect a democratic U. S. States Senator in place of Dayton, fed, whose time will expire in March next.

From Illinois, the news is far from encouraging. There seems to be a considerable Free Soil and Federal gain. The accounts are not as yet sufficiently definite to enable us to reduce them to any sort of order, but such appears to be the general tenor of the news.

In Michigan, the Democrats have carried their whole State ticket, and elected a majority of both branches of the Legislature, which will ensure the return of Gen. Cass to the U. S. Senate. They have lost two members of Congress, two feds being elected in their stead.

From Wisconsin, the delegation in Congress will stand: Two Free Soil Democrats, said to have been nominated by the Feds, and one old line Democrat, nominated and elected solely by the Democrats.—The Legislature is democratic, which will secure a Democratic U. S. Senator.

INDIANA.—The Constitutional Convention of Indiana, has determined to exclude, by Constitutional provision, free colored persons from giving testimony in cases of justice, against white persons. Indiana is a free State, but has always been free from the fanaticism of niggerology, and indeed once had it in contemplation to introduce slavery into her borders, but did not, perhaps as much from the fact that she was surrounded by non-slaveholding States, as from any other cause.

DEMOCRATIC MEETING IN BOSTON.—The Democrats held a large meeting in Boston on the 7th inst., at which several speeches were made, maintaining the constitutionality of the Fugitive Slave Law, and declaring that so long as it remains a law, it must be obeyed. Resolutions were passed to the same effect.

GOLD, AND MORE GOLD.—Within two days last week, three steamers, the Georgia, Empire, and Cherokee, arrived in New York, bringing about three millions of Gold dust from California. The Cherokee brought nearly fourteen hundred thousand on freight, and a large amount, enough to swell the sum total to two millions, in the hands of passengers. The other two steamers had at least a million between them in the hands of passengers. We see no news of importance later than that brought by the Alabama, and reported in last week's Journal. The cholera is raging in the Island of Jamaica.

DEEP RIVER COAL.—The Fayetteville Observer, of the 12th inst., learns that THOMAS FARISH, Esq., of Chatham county, has sold his Plantation and Coal Mine, on Deep River, for \$7,500, to a Northern gentleman, or company, whose intention it is to proceed at once to working the mine, with a large force.—The speedy completion of the works of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company will enable the purchaser, and the owners of other Mines on Deep River, to supply to this place and Wilmington, and perhaps to other parts of the State, any quantity of this valuable Mineral.

We learn from the Fayetteville papers, that Mrs. SIMPSON returned to that town on Friday last, the 8th inst., and surrendered herself to the Sheriff, by whom she was immediately committed to Jail, to await her trial on the charge of murdering her husband in Fayetteville on the 8th of November last.—The Superior Court for Cumberland county is now in session, and it is probable that she has already had her trial, although we have not as yet heard the result.

Dreadful Steamboat Explosion.

The steamboat Telegraph, of the Erickson line of propellers between Philadelphia and Baltimore, burst her boiler off New Castle, Delaware, about 7 o'clock on Sunday night, the 10th inst. Some fourteen persons were killed, and several severely wounded.—The wreck drifted two miles below New Castle, there being no steamer to take her in tow. She was at length carried up to the city by the propeller Tiger. All the passengers killed and wounded were forward the boiler. It is supposed, and indeed, asserted, that the Telegraph had too much steam on, on account of racing with another boat. Her engines, boilers, &c., were comparatively new, and in good order. The boat has sustained but trifling damage.

We are pleased to acknowledge the receipt of the South-Sea Democrat, a new tri-weekly Democratic paper, published in Petersburg, Va., by ROGER A. PRIOR, Esq. We suppose that it has taken the place of the Republican, which we have lately missed from our list. It is neatly printed, and deserving of patronage, which we hope it will receive.

CHAPLIN ON TRIAL.—Gen. CHAPLIN, the negro stealer, who attempted to carry off Messrs. TOMBS and STEVENS' negroes from Washington City last summer, was put on his trial at Rockville, Md., on Tuesday last. On Monday, the Grand Jury returned a true bill against him.

WASHINGTON MONUMENT.—The amount collected this year for the Washington Monument has been about thirty thousand dollars.

Assault on Bennett of the Herald.

A most ferocious assault was made on JAMES GORDON BENNETT, of the New York Herald, on Saturday last, by JOHN GRAHAM, Esq., and others. GRAHAM is the defeated candidate on the Democratic ticket for District Attorney, whom BENNETT had for some time past scored pretty severely, as the tool of the "infamous stool pigeon policy," &c. There is no doubt that some of BENNETT'S denunciations were deserved, and that nothing but bad nominations prevented the complete success of the Democratic party at the recent election in New York City. We annex accounts from several of the New York papers of Saturday afternoon:

Street Assault.—A highly censurable assault was made on James G. Bennett, Esq., editor of the Herald, this morning. He was walking in Broadway about 10 o'clock, accompanied by his wife, when he was attacked by John Graham, Esq., with a cowhide. Mrs. Bennett immediately fainted away and fell to the pavement, but was taken into a store by some of the occupants. A captain of the police interfered, but was felled to the ground by a blow from Mike Walsh.

Several other persons became involved, and in the conflict which ensued, Mr. Bennett and his antagonist were thrown to the ground, and a violent fight for the mastery took place. A reinforcement of the police soon arrived, when hostilities were terminated. Both the combatants were roughly handled. The outrage is rendered ferocious by the fact that Mrs. Bennett was with her husband when it was made.—This occurrence took place about 10 o'clock in Broadway, near White street.

Mr. Graham was the defeated candidate for District Attorney at the late election, and the attacks published in the Herald, since his nomination for that office, probably provoked the assault.—Journal.

A Cowhide in Broadway.—The Herald, having attacked John Graham, the late Democratic candidate for District Attorney, with its usual vindictiveness and personality, Mr. Graham took his vengeance this morning, by inflicting a personal chastisement upon James Gordon Bennett. Our informants who were present say the parties met at the corner of Broadway and White street. Mr. B. coming down town, and Mr. Graham going up. Mr. Graham put himself in front of Mr. Bennett and said:—"I am John Graham," and forthwith gave him a blow in the face. Mr. B. retired and raised his cane to strike back. He was, however, knocked down, and received several blows which drew blood. Mr. Graham also used a cowhide very freely. The police went promptly to the spot, and separated the parties. Our informants saw Mr. Graham get into a Broadway stage, and drive off to his residence in the street, protected by the police of the city.

We regret such an occurrence, as an event deplorable to the city, and to the parties. No man is excused for taking the law into his own hands, and Mr. Graham should have felt injured only when he had been unfortunate enough to receive the praises of his assailant: "what age does I do not know, but this man should speak well of me," is the only notice which ought to cause a feeling of shame or anger.

Assault on James Gordon Bennett.—An assault was made this morning on James Gordon Bennett, the notorious editor of the Herald, by John Graham, the defeated candidate for District Attorney, Mike Murray, and two or three others. Bennett was in company with his wife, passing up Broadway near White street, when he was attacked. He was knocked into the mud, and while thus prostrate received several severe cuts about the head and was considerably bruised in different parts of the body. When taken up he was completely covered with mud, and had a bad swollen face. The assault was also a disgraceful spectacle. His wife was also thrown down in the street but escaped without further injury than that done to her clothes.—Capt. Trumbull, of the Eighth Ward, arrived soon after the occurrence, and attempted to arrest Murray, but was prevented by the rest of the party, all of whom are still at large. Bennett, it is well known, made a series of the most gross and unprovoked attacks upon Mr. Graham, previous to the election.

Assault on Bennett, of the "Herald."—This morning, about 9 o'clock, James Gordon Bennett and John Graham, late opposition candidate for District Attorney, met in Broadway, near the corner of White street, and a fight ensued. Mr. Graham, who, however, had just stepped into a store, was accompanied by Mike Murray, somewhat known as a "fighting man," struck at Bennett with his fist as he approached, but the latter partially dodged the blow, which took effect on his hat, and knocked it off of all shape. With the second blow Graham struck Bennett on the forehead, and he struck him several blows with his fist, and a sword which he carried in his hand. Bennett suffered most in his face, his nose appearing very much swollen and bloody after the encounter. These are the facts as related to us by several eye witnesses. There were a number of spectators to the outrage, but no attempt was made to prevent it, and we believe that, up to this time, Mr. Graham has not been arrested.—Tribune.

We presume that the article to which our friend of the Hornets' Nest makes allusion, appeared in the Journal of the 4th of October, under the head of "Our Position," &c. If the editor of the Hornets' Nest will turn to our issue of the 25th of October, he will find an article in reply to the Cheraw Gazette, which will show him that if any expression in our article appeared to favor the Federalist doctrine of Centralism, the error was in the mode of expression—not in the idea intended to be expressed. We have seen our article in a mutilated form in the Hillsboro' Recorder, while it was intended to be taken as a whole, and not judged of by isolated expressions. Against such treatment we must protest. By the way, the Goldsboro' Patriot does us injustice, too, unintentionally, when he says that PRICE hates the abolitionists. He should have said FELTON & PRICE, for we believe that there is no difference in our opinions upon this subject.

Later from Europe.

The American steamship Atlantic, arrived at New York on the 12th inst., with four days later news from Europe. Her political news is unimportant.—The only thing of any interest is the fact that a division of the Prussian army marched into Hesse Cassel on the 26th ult., & there is some chance of a collision in Germany. The French funds have fallen in consequence. We do not notice any change in the market worth mentioning. Rice is selling at 15s. 6d. to 19s. 4d. per cwt. Naval stores in good demand.

POETRY IN ALL THINGS.—Perhaps the last person from whom we would have been apt to expect anything like poetry, would have been the miser millionaire, JOHN McDONOUGH, who recently died in New Orleans, and yet his will concludes with a poetical thought, clothed in the most beautiful and touching language. After bequeathing his vast property for the establishment of free schools, &c., and giving various rules and regulations to carry out his benevolent object, he says:

"And (I was near forgetting that) I have still one small request to make, one little favor still to ask, and it shall be the last. It is that it may be permitted, namely, to the children of the free schools, and water a few flowers around my grave. I think the act will have a double tendency. It will open their young and susceptible hearts to gratitude and love to their divine Creator for having raised up as the humble instrument of his bounty to them, a poor, frail worm of earth like me, and teach them, at the same time, what they are, whence they came, and whither they must return."

The population of Petersburg, Va., is a little over fourteen thousand. She has agreed to accept the new charter, and to become a City; and also to incur an expense of \$50,000 to supply the City with an additional and amply supply of water.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS.—There are eighty-one female Post Masters in the United States.

George Thompson, the abolitionist, who has recently arrived in this country, has no intention of adding to the present excitement upon slavery by lecturing upon the subject.

[BY REQUEST.] From the Religious Intelligencer.

Dear Brother McDaniel:—The fourth of November, inst., was a good day for the cause of human rights, and was promoted by the Sons of Temperance in South Washington. The day was beautiful, and early in the morning on the second day of the week, we could see the multitude of all ages, from the man of gray hairs to the smiling infant, wending their way, to witness the presentation of a Bible by the Ladies of that vicinity to the Division of the Sons of Temperance in that place.—It was interesting and encouraging to every true Son and friend of the cause, to see the interesting manifestation upon the occasion. At 10 o'clock, the Division assembled, and after some preliminary arrangements in their room, and after imploring the aid and guidance of the God of Purity, Temperance and Love, during the services and labors of the day, the Division appeared in their beautiful regalia, and after a short march to the West and North and South and East, upon their return to the Hall, an Ode was sung by the Division and prayer was offered for our worthy brother and true Son, A. B. ALDEN, the conclusion of which, a committee of Ladies appeared bearing with them a beautiful, well bound, gilt-edged Bible, which was presented to the Worthy Patriarch by Miss Martha Croom, who accompanied it with a very appropriate, beautiful and soul-stirring address, which was responded to by our worthy brother J. C. CARROLL, in an equally appropriate and happy manner. After listening to another Ode, an address was delivered by the Rev. H. MINER, of Wayne, which commended itself to the better judgment of all classes, and the noble cause to the favorable consideration of the enlightened and intelligent of every class. The Ladies in that vicinity evinced an interest and co-operation in the cause, truly worthy of the imitation of their sisters throughout the State. Indeed the conduct of all was highly commendable. Yes, South Washington and vicinity, heretofore noted for its intemperance, will hereafter become more noted for Temperance, Purity, Fidelity, and Love.

Yours respectfully, H. M.

From the Raleigh Standard.

Coming up to the Mark!—We are gratified at the manner in which the Raleigh Register leads off in its last issue against the Abolitionists and Free-Soilers. "It is never too late to do good." The Editor begins to speak out like a man, and not like a coward. He says, "I am glad that his heart was right; but a party spirit" has hampered him, and up to a recent date the commands of "national" Whigism have compelled him to measure and mince his words. The last Register, speaking of Boston Nullification, says:

"What Whig heart, especially, has not yearned towards Massachusetts, in bygone days, for her overwhelming victory and undivided sway in the free States of the North? The State of Massachusetts is now the hotbed of Fanaticism, Abolitionism, and all the other vile destructive and unchristian doctrines, which we do not deem it worth our while to name. We do not believe that it is wrong and degrading to maintain any social or commercial intercourse, whatever, with those who are warring against our interests and trampling our rights ruthlessly under foot."

Whig feelings and Democratic feelings must alike be forgotten, when this subject is under consideration. That man—whether he be a Democrat or a Whig—who desires to keep up the war in Congress upon Southern rights, or who is opposed to the Fugitive Slave Law, or who is in favor of the non-resistance, or who is unwilling to permit the Southern people to remain in the quiet and undisturbed possession of their slaves—that man is a foe to the Union of the States, and deserves the execrations of the people now and of all posterity.

If the Register and all its Southern associates had taken a firm stand on this subject twelve months ago, and had "led down" to disunion, the present crisis in plain language, the present crisis might have been averted, and all portions of the Union would have been now enjoying the fruits of harmony and peace. But one concession only begot another; and our assaults of the free States were led to believe, from Whig denunciations in the South of the Nashville Convention, that we were on this side of the question. Hence their continued aggressions and assaults—hence their triumph over us at the last session of Congress, and their refusal now to obey the Fugitive Slave Law.

We hope the Register will strengthen its language, and that its Editor will be prepared to act in due season, and not in due season, in the matter of the Union. So far as this question is concerned—rising as it does above and beyond all party questions—we are prepared to forget and bury the past, and to give him the right hand of fellowship as a friend to the present Union on just principles, but as an enemy to that Union whenever the Constitution which holds us together shall in any wise be violated or impaired. Hence we crowd upon each other, and the hours go by winged with the decrees of Fate. What we do now, or omit to do, will tell upon succeeding ages. Who dreamed, twelve months since, that the issue this day would be the repeal or enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law? And who, judging by the State law, tell us that in twelve months hence, if this agitation be permitted, we shall be no more a nation? Therefore, is the time. The ground we occupy on this question is the true and just ground; let us maintain it and defend it, happen what may. The South has been on the defensive in this matter from the first; and if in the end, the Union must be sacrificed, the blame and the guilt will be on the side of the Egyptian blacks, upon the escutcheons of the free States. The impartial historian will give the facts in a few words. He will say that the American Colonies achieved their independence together, by common sacrifices and common sufferings; that they formed a Union, under a common Constitution, each State being equal in rights and sovereign in powers; that after a time, these States won Territories by the same sword, or bought it with the common treasure; that the free States deprived the slave States, under the forms of the Constitution, of all share in these Territories, and appropriated them exclusively to themselves; that the slave States endured this in mingled anger and affliction; that they loved the Union and the common affection, and bore common sufferings and trials of the war of independence; that when this Constitution was formed, all the States but one held slaves; that provision was made in that instrument for delivering up to their owners slaves escaping from one State to another; that a majority of the States abolished slavery, sold off their slaves to the sister States, and gave the money for them; that, after a time, a law was enacted by the Congress, designed to carry out the Constitution in relation to escaped slaves; and that the free States, under these circumstances, having appropriated all the Territory to themselves, refused to enforce this law—encouraged slaves to escape from their masters—denied them, and insisted in the right of their own sovereign powers to dissolve the existing Union, and to take steps with a view to their continued independence and safety. Shall all this be written? The answer is with the people of the free States. Let them decide wisely for themselves and their posterity.

<